

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
OMB-01 XMB-02 NSC-05 /067 W  
-----116265 282106Z /73

R 282020Z JUN 77  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4514  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USNMR SHAPE BE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 06165

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS ALSO FOR ODC

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, BE  
SUBJECT: FUNDING FOR BELGIAN HAWK IMPROVEMENT

REF: (A) USDEL 163/77 (DTG 171716Z MAR 77)(NOTAL),  
(B) USNATO 1082 (DTG 281832Z FEB 77), (C) STATE 046670  
(DTG 030018Z MAR 77)

1. ASYG MUMFORD HAS INFORMED US PRIVATELY OF THE OUTCOME  
OF THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE INFORMAL IS/SHAPE/BELGIAN  
GROUP FORMED TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF BELGIUM'S  
ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL FROM THE HAWK BELT. THIS GROUP  
HAS AGREED ON THREE BASIC FUNDING OPTIONS TO SOLVE THE  
PROBLEM:

- A. EITHER THE REQUIRED ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES  
WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE BY BELGIUM OVER AND ABOVE  
CURRENT PLANS; OR

- B. THE GOB NEGOTIATES A FINANCIAL LOAN FROM EXTERNAL  
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SOURCES TO COVER THE COST OF MODERNIZATION; OR

- C. BELGIUM PROVIDES THE MANPOWER AND OPERATING COSTS  
WHILE:

- D. - THE IMPROVED EQUIPMENT AND MISSILES REQUIRED  
FOR EIGHT, OR A MINIMUM OF SIX, BATTERIES IN THE BELT

ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO BELGIUM ON LOAN AND FREE OF CHARGE  
BY ANOTHER ALLY (OR ALLIES); OR

- E. - THE EXISTING BELGIAN BASIC EQUIPMENT IS BROUGHT  
UP TO THE IMPROVED HAWK CONFIGURATION BY ANOTHER ALLY  
(OR ALLIES) WHO WOULD ALSO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED MISSILES  
ON LOAN AND FREE OF CHARGE.

2. THE GROUP HAS PREPARED A REPORT FOR SYG LUNS, WHICH  
IDENTIFIES THE OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDS EXPLORATION OF  
OPTIONS A AND C. AS YET THE CONTENT OF THE REPORT HAS  
NOT BEEN CIRCULATED TO NATIONAL DELEGATIONS.  
ASYG MUMFORD INTENDS, IN THE NEAR FUTURE, TO PUT THESE  
OPTIONS TO NATIONS FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER,  
HE HAS ACCEDDED TO OUR REQUEST TO DELAY RELEASE FOR A  
TIME, TO ALLOW US TO PROVIDE HIM WASHINGTON'S VIEWS.

3. ACCORDING TO MUMFORD, BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH THE  
BELGIAN REPS, OPTIONS A AND B ARE PROBABLY RULED OUT  
BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE OF FUNDS. WE SUGGESTED THAT OPTION C  
APPEARED TO BE A NON-STARTER THAT WOULD PROBABLY POSE  
LEGAL AND CONGRESSIONAL DIFFICULTIES FOR THE US (AS WELL  
AS FOR THE FRG). WE SAID WE QUESTIONED WHETHER THE US  
COULD EASILY JUSTIFY LENDING EQUIPMENT OR PROVIDING A  
MORATORIUM ON PAYMENT TO A WEALTHY, DEVELOPED COUNTRY LIKE  
BELGIUM. WE RECOGNIZED THAT THE BELGIANS WOULD BEAR THE  
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PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS OF OPTION C,  
AND THAT OPTION C MIGHT ENTAIL LOWER COSTS FOR AFFECTED  
NATIONS (PRINCIPALLY THE FRG AND THE US) THAN EXPENSES  
BROUGHT ABOUT BY COMPENSATORY STEPS, SUCH AS BATTERY  
RELOCATION. NONETHELESS, SINCE THE US OR FRG WERE THE  
ONLY POSSIBLE SOURCES FOR OPTION C AND SINCE BOTH WERE  
LIKELY TO BE CONSTRAINED FROM LENDING THE EQUIPMENT, THE  
EFFECT OF THE REPORT WAS TO CREATE AN UNVIABLE OPTION.  
WE WERE CONCERNED THAT THE RESULT WOULD BE THAT BELGIANS  
WOULD HIDE BEHIND OPTION C, WHICH WOULD NEGATE THE EFFORT  
TO GET THE GOB TO MAKE THE HARD BUDGETARY DECISION  
NEEDED.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WHILE THE SHAPE REPRESENTATIVES  
TO THE INFORMAL GROUP FAVORED OPTION A, THEY NOTED THAT  
OVER TIME THE GOB WOULD BEAR THE LARGER PORTION OF THE  
COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH OPTION C AND THAT COSTS TO THE US  
AND FRG COULD BE LESS THAN IF WE AND THE GERMANS HAVE TO  
TAKE COMPENSATORY STEPS TO ACCOMMODATE TO BELGIAN WITH-  
DRAWAL FROM THE HAWK BELT. HOWEVER, IF AFTER EVALUATION  
OF OPTION C WASHINGTON FINDS THAT IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE  
TO THE US, WE RECOMMEND WE BE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM

MUMFORD OF THIS FINDING AND COUNSEL AGAINST LUNS GOING FORWARD WITH OPTION C, ON THE GROUNDS THAT SUCH A COURSE COULD ONLY SERVE TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON THE GOB AND WOULD THUS DELAY A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. WE MIGHT USE THAT OCCASION TO EXPLORE WITH MUMFORD THE EXTENT TO WHICH TRADEOFFS WITHIN BELGIUM'S NATIONAL FORWARD PLANS HAVE BEEN EXAMINED. WE UNDERSTANT THAT SHAPE FEELS THAT THERE IS NO GIVE IN THE FORCE GOALS, BUT ARE NOT CERTAIN HOW HARD THE NMAS HAVE SCRUTINIZED BELGIUM'S COUNTRY PLANS TO SEE IF NATIONAL PRIORITIES,

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

OMB-01 XMB-02 NSC-05 /067 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

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SECDEF WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 NATO 06165

E.G., GROUND TRANSPORT, SHOULD YIELD TO THE ALLIANCE PRIORITY, IMPROVED HAWK.

5. TO DATE, THE US HAS HELD BACK FROM TAKING THE LEAD IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO THIS ISSUE. WE BELIEVE THIS COURSE IS STILL PRUDENT; HOWEVER, WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO CONSIDER HAVING US CALL ON BELGIAN PERMREP SCHUURMANS TO INFORM HIM THAT THE US WOULD NOT FIND IT POSSIBLE TO GRANT ECONOMIC OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BELGIUM'S MILITARY PROGRAMS IN THE WAY IT DOES FOR LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS, AND THAT THE US WOULD REGRET UNILATERAL ACTION BY ANY ALLY SUCH AS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE INTEGRATED HAWK BELT, THAT WOULD APPEAR TO ENTAIL COMPENSATORY EXPENDITURES BY THE US. WASHINGTON MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER THE UTILITY OF OUR CONCERTING WITH FRG PERMREP PAULS BEFORE APPROACHING SCHUURMANS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE BY JULY 8. STREATOR

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